

At page 4, before line 27, insert the following new paragraph

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1: Map of the plasmid pCR2.1luxSint.

The abbreviations and designations used have the following meaning.

B¹

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| KmR: | Kanamycin resistance gene |
| EcoRI: | Cleavage site of the restriction enzyme EcoRI |
| PstI: | Cleavage site of the restriction enzyme PstI |
| SalI: | Cleavage site of the restriction enzyme SalI |
| luxSint: | Internal fragment of the luxS gene |
| ColE1: | Replication origin of the plasmid ColE1.-- |

At page 26, line 10, delete to end of page.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-19, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 20-42.

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20. (New) An isolated polynucleotide native to the genus *Corynebacterium*, which is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

21. (New) An isolated polynucleotide native to the genus *Corynebacterium*, which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a protein having the activity of a histidine kinase.

22. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claims 20 or 21, wherein said polynucleotide is native to the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

23. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA.

25. (New) The polynucleotide of claim 23, wherein said polynucleotide is a RNA.